

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for preparing a sample to extract RNA used in a tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer, comprising the following process[[]] :

a) a process to homogenize the collected biological sample in the presence of an RNase inhibitor, to prepare a suspension thereof;

characterized by involving no procedure of separating cell components from the biological sample.

Claim 2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected biological sample is frozen.

Claim 3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1

Claim 4. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one~~ of claim 1 ~~[[to 3]]~~, wherein the biological sample is feces.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer, comprising the following processes:

- b) a process to extract RNA from the obtained sample for extracting RNA;
- c) a process to reverse transcribe the extracted RNA to give cDNA;
- d) a process to amplify the obtained cDNA; and
- e) a process to detect the amplified cDNA,

in addition to the method according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 ~~[[to 4]]~~.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one~~ of claim 1 ~~[[to 5]]~~, wherein the tumor marker is COX-2.

Claim 7. (currently amended) A kit for preparing a sample to extract RNA used in a tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer, comprising the following means[[;]] :

a) a means to homogenize a collected biological sample in the presence of an RNase inhibitor, and prepare a suspension thereof;

characterized by involving no means for separating cell components from the biological sample.

Claim 8. (currently amended) A kit according to claim 7, ~~comprising~~ further comprising a means to freeze the collected biological sample.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A kit according to claim 7 ~~or claim 8~~, wherein the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A kit according to ~~any one~~ of claim 7 [[to 9]], wherein the biological ~~samples~~ sample comprises feces.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A tumor marker detecting kit for diagnosing colon cancer, ~~further~~ comprising the following means:

- b) a means to extract RNA from the obtained sample for extracting RNA;
- c) a means to reverse transcribe the extracted RNA to give cDNA[[.]] ;
- d) a means to amplify the obtained cDNA; and
- e) a means to detect the amplified cDNA.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A kit according to ~~any one~~ of claim 7 [[to 11]], wherein the tumor marker is COX-2.